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AUG 18 2016

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

KENAI SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Date: AUGUST 15, 2016

I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

Personal

1. (a) State full name* JENNIFER KNOX WELLS
Name as it should appear on bar survey: JENNIFER K. WELLS
* Unless otherwise specified, this is how your name will appear on the bar survey.
- (b) Have you ever used or been known by any other name? If so, please identify.
NO
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application? **
Total 25 years 11 months
 years months
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application? **
Total 24 years 11 months
 years months

Nonlegal Education

4. State names and dates of attendance of all colleges and professional schools (other than law schools) ever attended and degrees and dates conferred. List any honors.

Mount Holyoke College: September, 1980 - May, 1984
B.A. in Political Science. Graduated cum laude.

Queen Mary College, University of London, London, England:
September, 1982 - December, 1982

** See AS 22.10.090; see also 1984 Inf. Op. Atty. Gen. (July 19; 366- 624-84).

Legal Education

5. List all law schools, dates attended and degrees conferred. If you did not receive a degree from any law school, please indicate.

Suffolk University School of Law: September, 1987 - May, 1990
J.D. Degree, 1990. Graduated cum laude.

6. (a) Did you receive any honors in law school or belong to any honorary societies or groups?
☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, please give details.

Moot Court Competition Best Brief Award, 1988
American Jurisprudence Prize Award, 1990

- (b) Have you taken any CLE (continuing legal education) courses during the past five years?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe or list. Please do not attach individual certificates of attendance.

Please see attached list

Military

7. Have you served in the armed forces (reserves or otherwise)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If so, please provide the following information:

- (a) Dates of service: _____
(b) Branch of service: _____
(c) Rank at time of discharge: _____
(d) Type of military discharge: _____
(e) Awards or citations: _____

- (f) Have you ever been refused admission to or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, state the details.

Jennifer K. Wells

Kenai Superior Court Judge Application

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CLE credits during the past five years:

March, 2016: Probate Matters: A Self-Study Online Course through The National Judicial College (4.00 CLE Credits)

March, 2016: National Drug Court Institute Comprehensive Judicial Training, Reno, Nevada (22.2 CLE hours, including 1 hour on ethics and confidentiality)

October, 2015: Statewide Magistrate Judge Conference. (Attendee and ethics presenter)

December, 2014: Parenting Coordination through the Northern California Mediation Center (13 CLE hours)

November 14-15, 2014: Managing and Mediating High Conflict Disputes - Advanced Skills Training through the High Conflict Institute (12 CLE hours)

October, 2014: Statewide Magistrate Judge Conference

July, 2014: Alaska Probate Law - Beyond the Basics, Alaska Bar Association (4 CLE hours)

October, 2013: Statewide Magistrate Judge Conference

October, 2012: Statewide Magistrate Judge Conference

October, 2011: Statewide Magistrate Judge Conference

October 2010: The Probate Process from Start to Finish, National Business Institute

Nonlegal Employment

8. Describe major nonlegal working experience. If you had a business or association that has been discontinued, please note whether there are unpaid debts or claims pending litigation.

Proprietor of a Bed and Breakfast since 2014

1996-2006: Published occasional articles in Anchorage papers

1995: Cheesecake baker for coffee shop in Tok

1980's: Part-time TTY relay operator in Boston

Administrative Assistant at Boston University

Waitress, lifeguard, store manager, gas station attendant

Legal Experience

9. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. Please provide dates and location of employment, name of employer, name AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF supervisor or person who can verify AND COMMENT ON YOUR employment, the reason you left the position, and a brief description of type of practice (i.e., insurance defense, criminal, appellate, general, litigation, etc.) *for each position listed below*. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A TRIAL COURT JUDGE, PLEASE LIST YOUR PRESIDING JUDGE. FOR PAST JUDGESHIPS, PLEASE LIST THE JUDGE WHO LAST PRESIDED DURING YOUR TIME ON THE BENCH.

The Council will ask for comments from your current and former employers about your employment and your judicial qualifications. You may choose to list other persons as character and professional references in response to Question 20 of this application.

If the supervisor or contact person asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

Current Employer: State of Alaska Court System

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Superior Court Judge William Morse

Current address of this person: 825 West Fourth Avenue

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and location of Employment: From 10/1/2007 To current City Kenai State AK

Description:

Acting District Court Judge, Kenai 10/1/2007 - 9/30/2008
Magistrate Judge and Standing Master, Kenai 10/1/2008 - now

Previous Employers: *(In chronological order, most recent first)*

Employer: Court (PJ's: Andrews, Christen, Gleason, Hensley, Tan. None w/ state ct now)

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Lee Powelson, HR Director

Current address of this person: 820 West Fourth Avenue

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From 11/1997 To 9/2007 City Anchorage State AK

Description: Committing Magistrate Judge, Standing Master, Acting District Court Judge (7/2000 - 3/2001).

Reason for Leaving: Reassignment to Kenai

Employer: State of Alaska Court System

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Ronald Woods, Area Court Administrator

Current address of this person: 101 Lacey Street

City Fairbanks State AK Zip 99701

Dates and Location of Employment: From 11/1994 To 11/1997 City Tok State AK

Description: Tok Magistrate Judge with Standing Master Duties (Presiding Judge Richard Savelle hired me. He is no longer with the state court)

Reason for Leaving: Accepted Standing Master position in Anchorage

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: State of Alaska Public Defender Agency
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: S. Joe Montague
Current address of this person: 130 Trading Bay Drive
City Kenai State AK Zip 99611
Dates and Location of Employment: From 9/1991 To 11/1994 City Kenai State AK
Description: Assistant Public Defender (handled misdemeanors, felonies, appeals, Child in Need of Aid, juvenile delinquency)
Reason for Leaving: Accepted position as Tok Magistrate Judge

Employer: State of Alaska Court System
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Lee Powelson, HR Director
Current address of this person: 820 W Fourth Avenue
City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501
Dates and Location of Employment: From 9/1990 To 9/1991 City Anchorage State AK
Description: Superior Court Law Clerk to then-Superior Court Judge Dana Fabe
Reason for Leaving: Accepted Public Defender position

Employer: Gilmore and Feldman
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Brian Doherty
Current address of this person: Doherty and Stuart PC, 750 W 2nd Ave Ste 105
City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501
Dates and Location of Employment: From Summer To 1989 City Anchorage State AK
Description: Summer intern working on a mix of state and federal, civil and criminal projects
Reason for Leaving: Finish law school

Employer: _____
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: _____
Current address of this person: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____
Description: _____
Reason for Leaving: _____

Employer: _____
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: _____
Current address of this person: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____
Description: _____
Reason for Leaving: _____

10. During your legal career, please indicate (approximately) the following:

(a) Percent of your practice that was: Civil 50
Criminal 40
Other 10
= 100%

Comment: "Other" refers to minor offense cases

(b) Percent: State 100
Federal
Other
= 100%

Comment:

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court
Court of Appeals
Superior Court 50
District Court 50
= 100%

Comment:

(d) Frequency of appearance in court:
☒ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Infrequently ☐ Not at All
Comment:

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted:
☐ None ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-15 ☐ 16-30 ☒ 31 or more
Comment: This includes traffic, small claims, presumptive death, DV

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 10% Non-Jury 90%
Comment: I've presided over at least 23 criminal jury trials in Kenai

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 0
Comment:

new (h) Approximate number of ~~arbitrations or administrative hearings~~ mediations/settlement conferences:
☐ None ☐ 1-5 ☐ 6-15 ☐ 16-30 ☒ 31 or more
Briefly describe type of matters heard:

Although I have not handled arbitrations/administrative hearings, it is worth noting I've been an active settlement judge in superior court

(i) Please briefly summarize any *pro bono* work that you have done and indicate whether the work was done through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.).

I regularly volunteer for projects that will benefit the Alaska Court System. For example, for years I've been a training judge for magistrate judges throughout the 3rd judicial district, which means planning, participating in, and presenting at, magistrate judge conferences. I've been on the statewide magistrate judge evaluation panel (1 of just 2 magistrate judge members) since its inception. I'm on the Family Rules Committee. I voluntarily obtained more than 40 hours of mediation training so that I could become one of the first magistrate judges to handle settlement conferences for domestic relations (and other) cases regularly. I'm currently Co-Chair of the Parenting Coordinator Task Force and volunteered to bring the Early Resolution Program to Kenai. Past involvement includes CINA Court Improvement Subcommittee, Supreme Court Domestic Violence Advisory Committee co-chair, Anchorage Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, Anchorage Domestic Violence Caucus member.

11. List all the courts and administrative tribunals in the United States or elsewhere to which you are or have been admitted to practice, and the dates of admission.

Massachusetts State Court 1991
Alaska State Court 1991

Public Service

12. List bar associations, and sections and committees of which you are or have been a member or officer.

Alaska Bar Association
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Association of Women Judges

13. List legal publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

14. Have you ever applied for a judgeship? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Please list dates and judgeships applied for, as well as whether you were nominated by the Judicial Council and appointed.

Judgeship	Date	Nominated By Council (Y/N)	Appointed By Governor (Y/N)
Anchorage District Court	2008	Y	N
Anchorage & Homer District Ct	2004	Y/Y	N/N
Palmer & Anchorage D. Cts	'03/'02	Y/Y	N/N
Valdez District Ct	1997	Y	N

15. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointive? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If so, state office, manner selected, and when and where held.

16. Please provide the Council with information that you would like the Council to consider about other legal and nonlegal organizations and clubs of which you are a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Please indicate whether you participate in the organization's activities, or simply hold a membership. Your involvement in the community is one of the criteria the Council uses in its evaluations. The Council does not use affiliation with a particular group as a criterion except to the extent that it might raise questions of conflict of interest or would affect an applicant's ability to impartially apply the law.

As mentioned in Q. 10, I regularly volunteer for additional projects to aid the administration of justice. In 2007 the Area Court Administrator asked me to move to Kenai for 1 year because of gaps left by 2 missing superior court and 1 district court judge (vacancy, deployment, injury). My proven abilities to work hard, communicate diplomatically, and handle high volume in both district and superior courts, meant I handled a wide range of responsibility. I immediately coordinated bench/bar meetings to improve approaches to a variety of criminal issues, as well as mental health commitments. I met with a representative of the bar to rewrite the outdated domestic relations pretrial order, and worked with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to write a Memorandum of Agreement so that minor consuming alcohol defendants could use a tribal justice program as an approved community diversion panel (then-presiding judge, Morgan Christen, signed the MOA). Since 2007, I have worked tirelessly to bring a therapeutic court to Kenai. Community members and legal professionals explored models in both district and superior courts, addressing alcohol, drugs and/or mental illness. We came close to a felony DUI wellness court a few years ago, but federal funds evaporated. Recently, however, Superior Court Judge Moran and I have been the 2 state court judges participating in intense efforts to create the first joint jurisdiction state/tribal court for felony offenders. Hiring is under way for a case manager. I also was on the board of directors for Alaska Midnight Sun Rowing Association.

17. Indicate (Yes or No) whether you have ever:
- (a) been arrested, charged with, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to, or been convicted of the violation of any law or ordinance, or been requested to appear before any prosecuting or investigative agency in connection with any matter in any jurisdiction, including all traffic offenses, unless the fine was less than \$50 and there were no other sanctions?
☐ Yes ☒ No
 - (b) failed to answer any summons or other legal process served upon you personally at any time? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 - (c) as a member of any armed forces, been the subject of any charges which may have resulted in disciplinary action or court martial? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- (d) had any proceedings brought to have you declared a ward of any court or adjudged an incompetent? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If your answer is "yes" to any part of this question, state the facts in detail. Give the name and place of the court or agency, dates of the beginning and end of any action or proceeding, case numbers, and the judgment or other disposition.

18. (a) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? ☐ Yes ☒ No
In particular, have you been the subject of any proceeding, criminal or civil, initiated against you by the Internal Revenue Service or a State Tax Office? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (b) Have you ever been sued by a client? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (c) Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceeding? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If so, give the particulars. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, including petitioner or respondent in dissolution or divorce proceedings; a material witness; a named co-conspirator or correspondent; and subject or witness in any grand jury proceedings. Do not list proceedings in which you were sued only in a representative capacity (e.g. guardian ad litem, or as Commissioner of Natural Resources).

In 1987 I filed a complaint against my landlord for violating Boston's rent control laws. The matter is resolved.

19. State the nature and disposition of any of the following actions which apply to you:

- (a) Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Have you ever defaulted in the performance of any court-imposed obligation, including payment of alimony or child support or compliance with another court order or decree?

☐ Yes ☒ No

In each case, list the name and address of the creditor, the court which rendered the judgment, the case number, the date, the amount of the judgment, and the circumstances on which such claim was based.

Has property owned by you been either judicially or non-judicially foreclosed?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Please state the circumstances and outcome of any such unsatisfied or default judgment, or of any foreclosure.

- (b) Have you ever made an assignment for the benefit of creditors? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Have you ever filed any petition in bankruptcy? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If so, state the circumstances, case number, and the outcome.

References and Counsel Questionnaires*

- * **Please Note:** Letters of reference from these persons are confidential and will not be given to the applicant. If the reference asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters and counsel questionnaires for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. (You **should not** list the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.)

References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

20. (a) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of two persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your general character and background.

Name: Madeleine Eno (non-lawyer friend since 4th grade)
Address: PO Box 191
City/State/Zip: Sandy, OR 97055 Phone: 503-453-5993 (cell)

Name: Sharon Barr
Address: 1435 M Street
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-317-9803 (cell)

- (b) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of three other persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your professional competence and qualifications for a judicial position.

Name: Superior Court Judge Anna Moran
Address: 125 Trading Bay Drive
City/State/Zip: Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 907-283-8509 (work)

Name: Superior Court Judge Charles Huguelet
Address: 125 Trading Bay Drive
City/State/Zip: Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 907-283-8507 (work)

Name: Superior Court Judge Carl Bauman
Address: 125 Trading Bay Drive
City/State/Zip: Kenai, AK 99611 Phone: 907-283-8580 (work)

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(c) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. Please do not list cases pending in the trial courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent trials they presided over.) List only those cases that have gone to trial within the past three years. Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

Case Number 1

Case Name: State of Alaska

Case Number: 3KN-16-158 CR

v. Roosevelt Hearod, Jr.

Judge Name: Wells

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Paul Morin, ADA

Name: Tristan Bordon, Assist. PD

Address: 120 Trading Bay Rd Ste 200

Address: 130 Trading Bay Dr Ste 390

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska

Case Number: 3KN-14-1557 CR

v. Amanda Taylor

Judge Name: Wells

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Darin Markwardt, ADA

Name: Tristan Bordon, Assist. P.D.

Address: 120 Trading Bay Rd Ste 200

Address: 130 Trading Bay Dr., Ste 390

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 3

Case Name: State of Alaska

Case Number: 3KN-14-888 CR

v. Daniel Rosin

Judge Name: Wells

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Darin Markwardt, ADA

Name: Nathan Lockwood, Assist. P.D.

Address: 120 Trading Bay Rd Ste 200

Address: 130 Trading Bay Dr., Suite 390

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(d) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that did not go to trial but in which you did significant work. Please do not list cases pending in the trial courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent cases they presided over that did not go to trial but in which they did significant work.) Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. *(Attach additional pages if necessary.)*

Case Number 1

Case Name: Morrill Mahan

Case Number: 3KN-11-497 CI

v. Jessica Mahan

Judge Name: Wells (as Standing Master)

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Rhonda F. Butterfield

Name: Shana L. Theiler

Address: Wyatt & Butterfield

Address: Walton, Theiler & Weingarden

City, State, Zip: 310 K St 200, Anch AK 99501

City, State, Zip: 105 Trading Bay 103, KEN 99611

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 2

Case Name: ITMO Herman Fandel

Case Number: 3KN-14-198 PR

v. (Guardianship case)

Judge Name: Wells (as Standing Master)

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Paula Jacobson

Name: Dale Dolifka

Address: 4241 B St Ste 201

Address: PO Box 498

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Soldotna, AK 99669

Name: Phil Nash

Name:

Address: 110 S Willow Ste 104

Address:

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 3

Case Name: ITMO Jerry Hatten

Case Number: 3KN-13-28 PR

v. (Estate case)

Judge Name: Wells (as Standing Master)

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Andrew Fierro

Name: Sonja Redmond

Address: 310 K St Ste 200

Address: 35865 Sunset Park Street

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Soldotna, AK 99611

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Writing Sample

21. Attach one example of a brief, memorandum of law, or legal opinion or similar example of legal writing (10-20 pages in length; 15-25 pages for appellate positions) prepared solely by you within the last five years. Please choose a sample that reflects your ability to do legal research and analysis. If you do not have a good sample of this length, include an excerpt from a longer writing. Make sure the sample contains sufficient facts to make it understandable. (Some reply briefs may not meet these requirements.)

Please do not submit: (a) coauthored writing samples, (b) samples with confidential information unless redacted to remove such information, (c) longer writing samples.

22. Has any **public** sanction been imposed against you in response to a complaint, charge or grievance brought against you as an attorney or a judge? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Have formal grievance procedures been brought against you? ☐ Yes ☒ No

See Bar Rule 22(b) & (e) concerning public bar grievance procedures against attorneys, and AS 22.30.011(b) and .060(b)(3) concerning public disciplinary grievance procedures against judges.

Have you ever been held in contempt of court? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you ever been fined or otherwise sanctioned by a judge? ☐ Yes ☒ No

In each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

Additional Comments (Non-Confidential)

23. Please make any additional comments that you wish to bring to the Council's attention about your experience and suitability for this judgeship.

The Kenai Superior Court position will expand upon skills developed during 22 years on the bench. A commitment to public service has always motivated my aspirations. I believe I can be of particular value to the Kenai Superior Court.

This interest follows 9 years in Kenai as Acting District Court Judge (1 year), Magistrate Judge and Standing Master. Although I was already experienced, my time in Kenai has offered me the unique opportunity to handle everything within my jurisdictional limits - unlike the more limited roles assigned judicial officers in Anchorage. Therefore, my competency has expanded to include superior court matters such as estates, guardianships, adoptions, and minor settlements. Additionally, for more than 1 year, I visited Homer monthly to assist with superior court cases. This gives me an even broader understanding of the

Additional Comments (Continued)

breadth of this position, as it includes travel to Homer and Seward.

My district court role has also expanded. Unlike Anchorage, where district court judges handle small claims and criminal trials, I've presided over both in abundance. I've handled presumptive death trials, more than 23 criminal jury trials, hundreds of bench trials, and written substantive criminal and civil decisions.

Most recently, I've worked closely, and intensively, with Superior Court Judge Anna Moran and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to develop the first joint jurisdiction court in the state. I believe it will bring critical help to people suffering drug addiction. My experience with this court also makes me a logical candidate for the superior court position, so that I can step in for Judge Moran when needed.

Lastly, I spent 10 years in Anchorage working hard on domestic violence issues - obtaining grant funding for the 1st court-based advocate, and helping develop Anchorage's fatality review team. An understanding of DV is critical for every judge. My blend of rural and urban experience will serve me well. I bring experience and integrity to the job. (Note: public affirmation of my work can be found in Montgomery v. State, MOJ 6263, 12/23/15; Mahan v. Mahan, Opinion 6991 3/27/15; Strodbeck v SOA, MOJ 6127, 12/10/14; Richardson v Estate of Berthelot, MOJ WL No. 203271, 2013).

24. Please indicate whether you prefer to be interviewed in public session or in private session. Your choice of a public or private interview has no bearing on the Council's determination of your qualifications or on the questions the Council may ask. You may change your request in writing at any time before the interview starts.

☐ Public Interview

☒ Private Interview

25. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (*limited to 150 words*) about your background, legal education, and legal experience. Please do not list personal information about minor children. Your picture and a copy of this statement will be scanned and posted on the Council's website after the application deadline. In its bar survey, the Council will invite attorneys to review the information if they wish to become more familiar with your background and experience. Use the form on the following page for your biographical statement. Please leave the box at the top empty. The Council will use this space for your scanned picture. ***To be fair to all applicants, the Council will strictly enforce the 150 word limit.***

If you object to the posting of your picture on the Council's website, please indicate your objection below. If you object, we will not post your picture, although you still must submit five photographs of yourself with your application.

☐ If you check this box we will not post your picture on the website.

Biographical Statement

Name Jennifer K. Wells

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

Kenai Superior Court

Please leave this area blank

Date: August 17, 2016

Born in Massachusetts, I moved to Alaska in 1990. I graduated Mount Holyoke College in 1984 and Suffolk School of Law in 1990.

In Alaska I clerked for Anchorage Superior Court Judge Dana Fabe, then worked as public defender in Kenai for 3 years.

In 1994 I moved to Tok to serve as magistrate judge. In 1997 I accepted the position of master in Anchorage with a focus on domestic violence cases. In 1997 I started an alternating 6 month duty rotation as committing magistrate.

In 2007 I moved to Kenai as Acting District Court judge for 1 year, then stayed as magistrate judge/master. For almost 20 years my work as training judge has taken me to Glennallen, Unalakleet, Kodiak, Naknek, Dillingham and Palmer.

My husband, Joe Arness, and I married last fall and live in Nikiski.